information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mangaldai Telephone Exchange

564. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present Mangaldai Telephone Exchange set-up was meant for a small Sub-divisional town and now it is quite incapable of meeting the growing demands of the headquarters of Darrang district;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mangaldai Telephone Exchange has been housed in a tiny building situated in a narrow strip of land; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for improving th$_e$ Mangaldai Telephone Exchange and providing STD facility there?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The existing building cannot accomodate new Exchange. Acquisition of Land for exchange is under process with State Government. 200 Lines Auto Exchange equipment for the exchange is expected in 1.988-89. The Exchange will be installed after construction of the new building. STD through Guwahati TAX will be provided after automatisation of the Exchange.

Reasons for adopting doable standard in the matter of supply of Natural Gas

565. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETRO LEUM ' AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)' whether it is a fact that Government have permitted Baroda Municipality to use natural gas by providing more than 40,000 domestic gas connections although Government's policy is. to use natural gas only as raw material for petrochemical industries;

Ob) whether it is also a fact that the Assam Gas Company was not allowed to take up any project for domestic consumers and tea gardens on' the ground that natural gas is used as a raw material only for petrochemical industries; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons behind the adoption of double Standards for Assam and Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) It is not the Government's policy to use natural gas exclusively as' raw material for petrochemical industries only. ONGC are supplying natural gas to Baroda Municipal Corporation for domestic supply.

Ob) No, Sir. Assam Gas Company is being supplied gas from ONGC's fields • in Assam - for supply to Sibsagar town for domestic purpose. Gas is also being supplied to tea gardens in Assam.

(c) Question does not arise.

Welfare activities of Guwahati Refinery and Oil India Management

568. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the .Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it .is a fact that the Guwahati Refinery and Oil India Management do not undertake any social responsibility in the form of welfare activities and road construction in Assam; and

(b) if so, whether there is any directive from his Ministry to the concerned authorities for such activities as in the case of ONGC which has